

have been discussed publicly before Select File or even Final Reading. The rule of germaneness pertains to so many of the other rules that we have in the Legislature. And when we forget about it, or when we make it so loose as to be meaningless, then we find that all of the...many of the other rules that we have become themselves much less meaningless. What's wrong with saying that each part of the divided question should be subject to the germaneness rule? Are you saying, by virtue of having gained the ruling of the division of the question, you have settled the matter of the separateness of the issues? That's been determined. Nobody argued that the question wasn't divisible and, therefore, if it is divisible and they are separate matters, then why not...then why should not germaneness pertain to each part? I think Senator Coordsen is perfectly correct, and that his version of things is the better version of the rules, and that if you ever want to restore the meaningfulness and the purpose of several of the rules that we have in the Legislature, we need to move back more towards a moderate germaneness rule, not a strict germaneness rule. Right now we're way out on the liberal, loose end of the germaneness rule, and we need to move back to a moderate, meaningful germaneness rule. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise to support the motion to overrule the Chair. As I understand it, this is a...Withem's amendment to the...Senator Withem's amendment to the committee amendments. And the amendment itself has been divided, one portion of it has been ruled not to be germane to the committee amendments. As I understand the rules, committee amendments are always germane to the bill. And if the committee amendments are always germane to the bill, therefore, the amendment to the committee amendments, if it's germane to the bill, has no choice but to be germane to the committee amendments. It's a very logical step to walk through and have that take place. I don't think the thought process involved there is all that difficult. I happen to be at the other end of the pole of Senator Beutler. I think the germaneness rule is far too strict, that it clearly handcuffs this body to do its work, although I think, in a very forthright way, sometimes it requires what we do, from time to time, on special occasions, and that is to just waive the rules by suspending them. If you were to buy the strictest of interpretations for a germaneness rule, you would write the language of the...the rule and the law